

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 79ISLAMA010806

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 00001 231115Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ADS-00 SR-04 RP-07 AID-05
H-01 PA-01 ICAC-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4966
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
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CONFIDENTIAL SECT 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 10806

GENEVA FOR UNHCR

E.O. 12065: GDS 9/23/85 (SHERMAN, R.) OR-P

TAGS: SREF, PEPR, SHUM, AF, PK, UN

SUBJECT: (C) UNHCR REPORT ON AFGHAN REFUGEES

REF: STATE 247738

(C) ENTIRE TEXT. PROTECT FGI

2. THE 20-PAGE UNHCR REPORT WAS POUCHED TO NEA/PAS SEPTEMBER

18. FOLLOWING IS PRECISE AND QUOTATIONS FROM SUBSTANTIVE
PORTIONS OF REPORT.

3. PURPOSE OF MISSION SAID IN PREFACE TO BE: "(A) TO
FOLLOW-UP ON FIRST UNHCR MISSION IN LATE MAY AND OBTAIN
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 00001 231115Z

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND
THEIR LOCATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN BALUCHISTAN AND, (B) ON
THE BASIS OF THE ABOVE TO ASSESS THE NEEDS OF THE REFUGEES
WITH A VIEW TO ESTABLISH: AN EMERGENCY PROGRAMME AND;
PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS GEARED TOWARD SELF-RELIANCE."

4. PARA 8 OF REPORT GETS TO CONDITIONS OF REFUGEES:
"IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT THE SITUATION IN EACH PROVINCE
ASSUMES DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS AND PECULARITIES IN TERMS

PAGE NO. 1

OF THE CASELOAD'S MAGNITUDE AND SETTLEMENT ARRANGEMENTS. BASICALLY, BALUCHISTAN WITH A REFUGEE CASELOAD OF SOME 45,000 REFUGEES HAS A LARGER AMOUNT OF ORGANIZED SETTLEMENTS (34 ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL REPORTS), THAN NWFP WHICH SHELTERS SOME 140,000 REFUGEES BUT HAS ONLY 5 OFFICIALLY RECORDED ORGANIZED SETTLEMENTS. BEARING IN MIND THE OBJECTIVE STATED IN PARAGRAPH 5, THE MISSION FEELS, HOWEVER, THAT THE ABOVE WILL INEVITABLY CONDITION THE PATTERN OF ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED TO EACH PROVINCE, IN TERMS OF THE RELATIVE LEVEL OF IMMEDIATE RELIEF AND SELF-RELIANCE INPUTS IN THE PROGRAMME..."

5. RESULTS OF VISIT IN PARA 9 DETAILS NEEDS IN FOLLOWING

AREAS:

-- RELIEF ASSISTANCE: FOOD INCLUDING VEGETABLE OIL, MILK, PULSES (PEAS, BEANS, LENTILS), WHEAT FLOUR AND SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS AS WELL AS HEALTH SUPPLIES URGENTLY NEEDED. UNICEF WILL PROVIDE DRUGS AND JEEPS TO DELIVER SERVICES. SHELTER NEEDED FOR APPROACHING WINTER. BLANKETS AND QUILTS URGENTLY NEEDED.

-- SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM: REFUGEES MUST BE PROVIDED MEANS OF ORGANIZING SELVES INTO PRODUCTIVE UNITS. SPECIFIC PROGRAMS MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT LOCATIONS, GEOGRAPHY,

TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES OF REFUGEES, ETC. WATER SUPPLIES

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 00001 231115Z

MUST BE IMPROVED. AGRICULTURE, GARDENING, HANDICRAFTS AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES CAN BE PARTS OF THIS PROGRAM.

6. PARA 11 OF REPORT SAYS REFUGEES SEEM GENERALLY RECEPTIVE TO IDEA OF STARTING PRODUCTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES AS ABOVE. THERE IS SOME RELUCTANCE, HOWEVER, DUE TO MISBELIEF ON PART OF PAK LOCAL AUTHORITIES THAT SUCH PROJECTS MAY LEAD TO PERMANENT SETTLEMENTS. THIS MISCONCEPTION REQUIRES "CONSIDERABLE PERSUASION TO PLACE THE PROJECTS IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE," ACCORDING TO THE REPORT.

7. IN PARA 14 THE REPORT DISCUSSES SPECIFIC PROBLEMS IN NWFP. MAJOR PROBLEM THERE RELATED TO SCATTERING OF REFUGEES WITH ONLY FIVE TRUE CAMPS AND THE REMAINDER OF THE REFUGEES DIFFICULT TO LOCATE AND TO SERVICE. THE REPORT PROPOSES MOVING AS MANY REFUGEES AS POSSIBLE INTO THE ESTABLISHED CAMPS. AGAIN, SELF-RELIANCE PROJECTS IN NWFP FACE MAJOR HURDLES OF THE PHYSICAL AND HUMAN NATURE.

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 10806 02 OF 02 231137Z
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8. PARA 16 PRESENTS MISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOP AND
UN AGENCIES FOR THE FORMATION OF AN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.
RECOMMENDATIONS QUOTED HERE VERBATIM:

(A) THE GOVERNMENT (GOP) SHOULD:
-- STRENGTHEN THE EFFORTS IT IS ALREADY UNDERTAKING IN
BOTH PROVINCES TO REMOVE REFUGEES FROM THE BORDER AND
LODGE THEM IN ORGANIZED SETTLEMENTS;
-- CONTINUE THE SEARCH FOR SELF-RELIANCE PROJECTS WHICH
ALSO WOULD ENABLE THE REFUGEES TO ENGAGE IN PRODUCTIVE
ACTIVITIES AND THEREBY LIMIT THE PERIOD DURING WHICH EMER-
GENCY RELIEF WILL BE REQUIRED, BEARING ALSO IN MIND THE
NEED TO IDENTIFY THESE PROJECTS AT THE ORGANIZED SETTLE-
MENT LEVEL;
-- UNDERTAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION, THROUGH GUIDANCE AND
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 10806 02 OF 02 231137Z

COUNSELLING IN ORDER TO SECURE THE REFUGEES' SUPPORT FOR
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE PROJECTS AND ENDEAVOUR TO
ERASE THE MISGIVINGS THEY SEEM TO HAVE ABOUT SUCH PARTICI-
PATION ENTAILING PERMANENT SETTLEMENT IN THE COUNTRY OF
ASYLUM;

-- AIM AT WORKING OUT APPROPRIATE LAND ARRANGEMENTS IN
ORDER TO ENABLE THE INCEPTION OF SUCH PROJECTS;
-- ENDEAVOUR TO ESTABLISH SETTLEMENTS LARGE ENOUGH (BEAR-
ING IN MIND THE ADVISABILITY OF MERGING EXISTING ONES

WHEN FEASIBLE) TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUPPLY OF BASIC FACILITIES AND SECURE THROUGH ECONOMIES OF SCALE EFFICIENCY OF THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED;
 -- ESTABLISH AND/OR IDENTIFY AS MANY FOOD DISTRIBUTION CENTRES AS REQUIRED TO ATTEND ORGANIZED SETTLEMENTS, AS WELL AS ANY OTHER WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED AS INCENTIVE FOR THE REFUGEES NEAR THE BORDER TO LEAVE THEIR PRESENT LOCATIONS;
 -- APPOINT A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL TO ACT AS A LIAISON OFFICER FOR ALL ASPECTS REFLECTED TO ASSISTANCE TO AFGHAN REFUGEES.

(B) THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS APPLY TO UN AGENCIES:
 -- THE UN SYSTEM SHOULD ENDEAVOUR TO COVER TO THE LARGEST EXTENT POSSIBLE THE NEEDS OF THE EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAMME IDENTIFIED IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE PRESENT REPORT.
 -- UNHCR WILL SUBMIT TO THE FORTHCOMING SESSION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE A 12-MONTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME PLACING EMPHASIS ON SELF-RELIANCE PROJECTS AS WELL AS PROVIDING FOR RELIEF ASSISTANCE.
 -- IN VIEW OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE NEEDS, OTHER INTERESTED UN AGENCIES SHOULD ENDEAVOUR TO FILL THE GAP AND CONSIDER, WITHIN THE GENERAL POLICY DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 6, CONTRIBUTIONS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS OF ACTIVITIES.
 -- CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF FORTHCOMING ASSISTANCE FROM VOLUNTARY AGENCIES UNHCR SHOULD, IN ACCORDANCE WITH
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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 10806 02 OF 02 231137Z

THE WISH EXPRESSED BY THE GOVERNMENT, TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO CHANNEL THESE CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH ITS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME.
 -- DUE TO THE COMPLEX REFUGEE SITUATION AND THE NEED TO WATCH DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY, THE UNHCR PRESENCE IN PAKISTAN WILL BE REQUIRED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

9. ADDITIONAL INFO FOLLOWS SEPTTEL (NOTAL).
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